

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

If Sinclair would simultaneously air a anti-Bush documentary in these last weeks before election, that would be fair. But this amounts to campaigning on behalf of Bush, something which should not occur. If Sinclair Broadcasting wishes to air the documentary AFTER the election, that would be not problem. The timing here is VERY suspect.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.